



NEWS RELEASE

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Resolve to prepare your family for emergencies in 2014

RICHMOND, Va. – Ready Virginia, the commonwealth’s emergency preparedness public outreach initiative, is joining with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the national Ready campaign to ask Virginians to *Resolve to be Ready* in the new year.

“There is no more important resolution to make than to renew our personal efforts to be sure our families, homes and businesses are ready for disasters,” said Michael Cline, state coordinator of emergency management. “Everyone – the whole community – has a role in being ready for emergencies. We all can take steps now to be more prepared for any emergency that may happen in 2014.”

Resolving to be Ready can be as simple as knowing who to call, where to meet and what to pack in the event of a disaster. Emergencies can happen at any time, and families may not be together. Power could be lost, and cell phones may not work. Families should discuss these topics and decide what to do as well as fill out an emergency plan.

Some questions to consider:

- Do you and your family members have contact phone numbers memorized or written down and available in backpacks and wallets?
- Do you have a plan on how to meet up with family if you are separated?
- Do you know how to contact your children’s school in case of an emergency?
- Do you have three days of emergency supplies and water set aside?

Individuals and families can fill out an emergency plan, post it in homes, and share it with family and friends. Get free plan worksheets, wallet cards and emergency supply checklists at www.ReadyVirginia.gov or on the new Ready Virginia app for iPhone and Android devices.

“Winging it is not an emergency plan,” said Cline. “Take just a few minutes in the new year to decide who to call, where to meet, and what to have on hand at home in case you can’t get out or you have to evacuate because of a bad situation. You’ll be glad you did.”

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Notes to editors and news directors:

- Winging It video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7mHV3el2g0&feature=youtu.be>
- Follow #Prepared2014 throughout the year for tips and testimonies about being prepared for emergencies.